

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 136972

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: MARITIME EXERCISE INFORMATION GROUP (MEIG)

REFS: (A) USNATO 04448, DTG 311715Z MAY 77 (NOTAL)
-- (B) MC 232 (MILITARY DECISION), 23 JULY 1974
-- (C) USDELMC 041028Z MAY 77

1. OUR PRIMARY CONCERN WITH PO/77/80 CONTINUES TO BE THE
PROVISION FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE GROUP BY PARTI-
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CIPATING NATIONS RATHER THAN BY THE CINC IN WHOSE HEAD-
QUARTERS THE MEIG IS LOCATED. WE RECOGNIZE THAT IT MAY
NOT BE POSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT THE MEIG GIVEN THE STRONG
DIFFERENCES IN NATIONAL POSITIONS. MISSION SHOULD CONVEY
TO THE ALLIES OUR WILLINGNESS AND DESIRE TO COOPERATE IN
THIS PROJECT. YOU SHOULD STATE THAT WE FEEL THAT IT WILL
BE USEFUL, HOWEVER, ONLY IF PROPERLY CONSTITUTED AND

STRUCTURED. IF OTHER NATIONS CANNOT AGREE TO A MILITARY CHAIRMANSHIP, WE ARE INCLINED TO CONTINUE RELIANCE ON EXISTING MECHANISMS SUCH AS THE NATO MARITIME SURVEILLANCE COORDINATION CENTERS AT CINCEASTLANT, CINCNORTH, CINCSOUTH, COMIBERLANT, AND CINCSOUTHLANT; AND THE US-NAVAL OCEAN SURVEILLANCE INFORMATION CENTER WHICH PROVIDES BILATERAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION WITH MOST OF THE NATO COUNTRIES.

2. MISSION IS INSTRUCTED TO BREAK SILENCE PROCEDURE, REJECTING THE PO AS DRAFTED, AND SEEK THE CHANGES LISTED BELOW.

A) INSIST THAT THE DOCUMENT SPECIFY THAT THE CINC (OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE) WHOSE HEADQUARTERS PROVIDES LOCATION AND SUPPORT OF THE GROUP, WHETHER CINCHAN OR CINCEASTLANT, WILL CHAIR THE MEIG (PARA. 2, LINE 5). REGARDLESS OF PAST WILLINGNESS TO MAKE CHANGES THAT WOULD HAVE APPARENTLY "DE-NATOIZED" CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE 1974 DRAFT PO, THE BASIC CONCEPT THAT ENVISIONED MILITARY APPLICATION OF THE PROPOSED GROUP WITHIN NATO REMAINS VALID. NATO MINISTERS CLEARLY INDICATED THE NEED FOR CLOSE AND IMMEDIATE COORDINATION OF MEIG ACTIVITIES WITH THE COGNIZANT NATO MILITARY AUTHORITY BY SPECIFYING THAT THE GROUP ACT UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF CINCHAN. WE HAVE NO HESITATION IN SHIFTING THIS TO CINCEASTLANT BUT WE VIEW CHAIRMANSHIP BY ONE OF THE PARTICIPATING NATIONS AS A SIGNIFICANT AND UNACCEPTABLE MODIFICATION OF THE MINISTERS' DECISION (REF B). THIS COULD DECOUPLE THE GROUP FROM THE CONFIDENTIAL

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COGNIZANT NATO COMMANDER AND CAUSE THE GROUP TO BECOME NON-PRODUCTIVE FOR THE ALLIANCE AT BEST, AND COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE IN THE EXTREME. UP TO THIS POINT THERE HAS BEEN NO REASON GIVEN BY OTHER NATIONS FOR SO BASIC A DEPARTURE FROM MC 232. IN THE ABSENCE OF COMPELLING LOGIC FAVORING SUCH A CHANGE, WITH ATTENDANT ASSURANCES THAT NATO WOULD DERIVE THE SAME BENEFITS REGARDLESS OF CHAIRMANSHIP, MISSION SHOULD TREAT THIS ASPECT OF PO AS CRUCIAL TO ANY AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH THE MEIG.

B) ENDEAVOR TO CHANGE THE LOCATION OF MEIG FROM CINCHAN HQ TO CINCEASTLANT HG (PARAGRAPH 2, LINE 4). SACLANT AND CINCHAN HAVE AGREED THAT CINCEASTLANT IS MORE APPROPRIATE, AS MOST OF PERTINENT MARITIME AREA IS WITHIN CINCEASTLANT RESPONSIBILITY (REF C). WE BELIEVE THIS CHANGE WILL ENHANCE THE OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE GROUP'S ACTIVITIES WITHOUT DETRACTING FROM THE BASIC INTENT OF THE ORIGINAL CONCEPT. MISSION'S EFFORT IN THIS REGARD SHOULD BE MADE WITH APPROPRIATE REGARD TO

THE FACT THAT CINCHAN REMAINS ACCEPTABLE TO US SHOULD
OTHER NATIONS HAVE SUBSTANTIATED OBJECTIONS FROM
CAPITALS TO CINCEASTLANT AS THE LOCATION.

C) IN THE ANNEX TO PO/77/80, SECOND PARAGRAPH OF
SUGGESTED TEXT FOR PUBLICITY, IF CINCEASTLANT LOCATION
AND CHAIRMANSHIP ARE AGREED, MISSION SHOULD RECOMMEND
THAT LINES 2 AND 3 BE CHANGED TO READ "...LOCATED AT
NORTHWOOD, HEADQUARTERS OF NATO'S CHANNEL AND EASTERN

ATLANTIC AREA COMMANDS. ANY SUCH ACTIVITIES..." THIS
WOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THE LOCATION OF EASTLANT ALONG WITH
CHANNEL COMMAND WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAILS OF SPECIFIC
CHAIRMANSHIP.

D) MISSION SHOULD RECOMMEND THAT PARAGRAPH 3, LINE 14
READ "...TO ESTABLISH, THROUGH THIS GROUP, A PERMANENT
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PRESENCE OF SOME NATO..." THIS WILL CLEARLY CONFINE
THIS PARTICULAR LANGUAGE TO THE PURPOSES OF THE MEIG,
IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT SEVERAL NATO COUNTRIES HAVE
ALREADY ESTABLISHED A PRESENCE IN NON-NATO MARITIME
AREAS.

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